

Numbers 24:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

Analysis

Balaam introduces his third oracle with 'Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said.' The phrase 'eyes are open' contrasts with his earlier blindness when the donkey saw the angel he couldn't perceive (22:31). True spiritual sight comes from God, not human wisdom. Despite opened eyes, Balaam's subsequent treachery showed that seeing truth doesn't guarantee obeying it.

Historical Context

This introduction established Balaam's authority as one who genuinely received divine revelation. Ancient Near Eastern oracles typically began with the seer's credentials and claim to supernatural vision, authenticating the message that followed.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How is spiritual sight (perceiving God's truth) distinct from spiritual obedience (living by it)?
2. What truths have your eyes been opened to see that you resist obeying?

Interlinear Text

בָּעֵד בֶּן־בָּלָעֵם וַיֹּאמֶר מִשְׁלֵל־וְיִשְׁאַל אֶת־
And he took up his parable and said hath said Balaam the son of Beor
H5375 H4912 H559 H5002 H1109 H1121 H1160

וַיֹּאמֶר בְּנֵי־בָּרְנָא שְׁתִּים בְּנֵי־בָּרְנָא
hath said and the man are open whose eyes
H5002 H1397 H8365 H5869

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 24:16 (Parallel theme): He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

Numbers 23:7 (Parallel theme): And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.